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LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI TO ITALIAN WEEKLY: WILLING TO MEET AS-SADAT FBIS-MEA-76-189

Rome ANSA in English 1915 GMT 25 Sep 76 AU

[Text] Rome, September 25 (ANSA)--Charges that part of the Egyptian Secret (?Service) was collaborating with the American secret services in order to further worsen relations between Egypt and Libya [words indistinct] by Libyan head-of-state, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhadhafi.

Interviewed for the latest number of the Rome weekly, TEMPO, Al-Qadhdhafi denied he had instigated the recent wave of terrorist attacks and sabotage in Egypt. In particular, he described the failed hijacking of an Egyptian domestic flight between Cairo and Luxor on August 22 as "perhaps the biggest put-up job organised at the suggestion of the 'CIA'". He added that the other attacks were the result of "popular discontent" fanned by Egypt's current economic difficulties. Al-Qadhdhafi also told TEMPO he did not believe allegations that there was a plot to assassinate former Libyan Industry Minister Omar (Mehishi), who took (?refuge in) Egypt during the (?coup of) 1975. "In any case, those responsible for the plot [word indistinct] without my knowledge.

"This does not remove the fact that one of the conditions for an improvement in relations between Egypt and Libya is (Mehishi's) extradition."

On relations between the two countries, Al-Qadhadhafi said he was preapred to meet Egyptian head-of-state Anwar as-Sadat "for no more than five hours, without mediators in a neutral country."

"Maybe there have been misunderstandings. Maybe there are just differences of principle to clarify. Basically I don't hate As-Sadat. I shall never tire of offering him my hand, but this gesture of mine should not be seen as weakness. Libya fears no one."

According to Al-Qadhdhafi, Libya was being used as a "distraction" for public opinion in Egypt. "As-Sadat is using the (?card) of war in order to try and regain the confidence of the Egyptian people as a commander of armies after losing it as "a ruler and economist," he said. "On the other hand, the search for diversions and scapegoats is in As-Sadat's tradition."

Al-Qadhdhafi also claimed that the agreement which As-Sadat signed with Israel in 1974 had split the Arabs, achieving what Israel had failed to do in a century. "But I give this warning to Israel and its masters in Washington: The truce with As-Sadat does not mean truce with the Arabs. As-Sadat's promises are not valid for all the Arabs."

On Italy-Libyan relations, Al-Qadhdhafi said, "We distinguish the Italy of 1912 from the Italy today." "The presence in Libya of many of those Italians whom I chased from the country was illegal. They had taken possession of goods belonging to the Libyans. Today, Italy is Libya's leading trade partner. Today, (the Italian State-owned natural fuels corporation) 'ENI' is the only foreign oil company with a fifty-percent contract. Today, the Italians export labor, sell manufactured goods, build plants and work with the Libyans in order to transform the desert into a vast oasis."

RADIO SAYS EGYPTIAN TRADE AGREEMENTS ABROGATED

Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Sep 76 JN

[Text] Cairo--It has been decided to abrogate the trade agreements concluded between Egypt and India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Albania as of 1 January 1977. The reason for abrogating these trade agreements is Egypt's deteriorating economy, its trade balance deficit, its economic open-door policy and its subservience to the United States.

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PALESTINIAN WRITERS FEDERATION HITS TERRORISTS

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Sep 76 JN

[Text] In a statement released today, the Federation of Palestinian Writers and Journalists in Syria has denounced the criminal operation carried out by a group of traitors. The following is the text of the statement:

On 26 September 1976, a traitorous gang, whose members admitted that they belonged to the Fatah movement, committed an ugly criminal act against the security of our Syrian Arab people and against the holy tie linking our one Arab people in Palestine and Syria and unifying their struggle in confronting the Zionist enemy. The traitorous act committed by this gang and similar previous acts indicate that deviation by certain Fatah leaders has reached the point of their becoming pliable tools in the service of the Zionist-imperialist scheme.

As we denounce the crimes committed by the gangs of deviating leaders, and as we condemn their dirty attempts to carry sedition from Lebanon to Syria, we demand that the traitors, agents and criminals must be severely punished. At the same time, we affirm that deliverance from traitorous and deviating leaderships which try to drag our people into further catastrophes is a patriotic and pan-Arab responsibility. It is the duty of Arab brothers and progressive friends in the whole world to assist our people and their revolutionaries in their struggle to get rid of deviating leaderships and save our Palestinian revolution from their domination and violence, through an immediate halt in dealing with these leaderships, and through imposing isolation on them. Then they will not be able to exploit the lenience of brothers and friends of exercising further liquidations against the honest revolutionaries of our people, creating further seditions and committing further crimes victimizing our youth.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES REPLY MESSAGE FROM SARKIS

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Sep 76 NC

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable from His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis, president of the Lebanese Republic, in reply to the cable of congratulations he sent on the occasion of his assumption of his constitutional powers. The text of the reply cable follows:

His Excellency Brother President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, Damascus.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Lebanese people I thank you for the contents of the message you sent me on the occasion of my assumption of my constitutional powers. At the beginning of this delicate and difficult period, in which we shall exert efforts to stop the fighting and proceed on the long road to rebuild the Lebanon of the future, it pleases me to assure Your Excellency of my constant desire to continue developing the fraternal relations which exist between us and dear sister Syria and to strengthen these relations in the interest of Lebanon and the great aims of our two countries and people and to strengthen the Arab struggle to serve the Lebanese cause.

I again express my deep thanks to you. I pray God Almighty to preserve you and guide your steps and to grant fraternal Syria and the noble Syrian Arab people strength and prosperity. I also extend to you my best wishes on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr. May God preserve you.

Signed: Your brother, Ilyas Sarkis, president of the Lebanese Republic.

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